

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28TH MAY 2003

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL STRATEGY: GUIDANCE FOR
SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the publication by COSLA and the Scottish Executive of 'Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy: Guidance for Scottish Local Authority'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee considered its response to Draft Guidance for Local Authorities on the Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy at its meeting on 13th November 2002 and had previously considered reports on the National Cultural Strategy "Creating Our Future..... Minding Our Past" in September 2000 and April 2002.
- 2.2 Following a consultation process, COSLA and the Scottish Executive have now published their guidance to Local Authorities on the implementation of the National Cultural Strategy. Copies of the guidance are available on the Scottish Executive website at www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/culture/incsgla.ooo.asp.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The guidance provides strategic advice for Local Authorities and highlights their core cultural role and the wide range of other activities in which culture can play an important role. The guidance has been published as a first step in developing provision for culture. The Executive and CoSLA are committed to further work in this area and plan to issue a set of good practice guidelines to assist Local Authorities in developing local Cultural Strategies.
- 3.2 The guidance is advisory and is not prescriptive. The document is detailed and requires careful consideration; however the 8 key advisory points which form good practice and are highlighted in the document's introduction give an overview of the guidance and its purpose.
- 3.3 According to the Key advisory points each Authority should:
1. Recognise and embrace the broad definition of culture and cultural provision outlined in Scotland's National Cultural Strategy.

2. Make appropriate arrangements to deliver cultural policies that recognise the intrinsic and instrumental nature of provision, developing a single, authority-wide cultural strategy and considering service-specific delivery plans for key areas of provision.
3. Relate these policies and strategies/plans to the National Cultural Strategy and appropriate policies in cultural (e.g. *Sport 21*) and other (e.g. social justice) fields.
4. Ensure that opportunities for developing cultural provision and advancing community well-being are embraced and maximised by the local community planning process and other partnership mechanisms.
5. Fulfil its role as local leader in cultural provision making full use of both existing and new legislation to promote cultural provision, including the power of promoting community well-being.
6. Ensure that provision is made for the following core areas of cultural activity: the arts; community recreation; heritage, museums and historical records; libraries and information; sport; parks and open spaces.
7. Recognise and embrace the contribution which culture makes in achieving wider policy goals including social justice; community development and active citizenship; diversity; economic regeneration; lifelong learning; health benefits; community safety; and environmental improvements.
8. Work with the Scottish Executive and CoSLA to ensure the availability of comparable baseline information and research on cultural provision, and the development of a self evaluation mechanism to measure effectiveness and ensure that resources for cultural provision are applied in ways that are consistent with Best Value.

3.4 The preparatory work to produce a Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire has been ongoing for several months and can now be completed with reference to this new guidance.

A document has recently been prepared to initiate discussion regarding cultural services in East Ayrshire and it is intended that a broad programme of consultation with appropriate local, national and internal interested groups is implemented over the coming months to allow a draft cultural Strategy to be produced for consideration by this Committee in due course.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire is now required and should follow the new guidance published by CoSLA and the Scottish Executive.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The guidance for Local Authorities provides useful information and identifies important subject areas that should be covered in any Cultural Strategy; this will be valuable in the production of the Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Committee

- i) notes the content of this report; and
- ii) remits to the Director of Community Services to report back on progress on the development of a Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire in due course.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/KH

30th April 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Draft Guidance for Local Authorities on the Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy – Report to Community Services Committee dated 13th November 2002.
2. Scottish Executive/CoSLA publication “Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy: Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities”.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, on 01563 576264.

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